

THREE CRUISERS TORPEDOED

BLAME PLACED FOR LOSS OF CLALLAM

Chief Engineer De Launay Held to Be Principally Accountable for Drowning of Passengers.

Captain Roberts Also Censured for Failure to Give Explicit Orders to Tugs.

ENGINEER LOSES LICENSE

Branch of Captain Is Suspended for One Year--Steamer Fulton Total Loss at Port Orford.

Seattle, Feb. 13.—The decision of the marine board of inquiry, which sat upon the Clallam disaster case, handed down today, lays the chief blame for the disaster upon Chief Engineer De Launay, charging him with neglect and incompetency. Captain Roberts is censured for not having an officer of the ship in the second and third boats that were launched and for not giving explicit orders to the captain of the Holyoke to take the ship to the nearest shelter.

The officers of the tugboats Holyoke and Sea Lion are highly complimented for their share in the work of rescuing the passengers. De Launay's license is revoked and the license of Captain Roberts is suspended for one year. The decision is signed by Blon B. Whitney, inspector of hulls, and Robert A. Turner, inspector of boilers.

FULTON WILL BE TOTAL LOSS.

One of Her Mates Drowned While Leaving the Vessel.

Marshfield, Feb. 13.—The telephone line is down between here and Port Orford, the scene of the wreck of the lumber laden steamer Fulton, which went ashore yesterday while on the way from Astoria to San Francisco.

A traveling man who arrived here this evening says the Fulton is a total wreck. He adds that when the crew was forced to leave the craft one of the

officers—he was unable to learn whether the first or second—was drowned.

Constitution Approved.

Panama, Feb. 13.—The draft of the constitution of the republic of Panama has been approved by the constitutional convention, and it was delivered today to the provisional junta for ratification. It will probably be ratified Monday.

Cabled to Philippines.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The entire text of the president's neutrality proclamation was cabled today to the Philippines for promulgation there. This was done at great expense, for the reason that the Philippines probably would be most likely to see breaches of neutrality, owing to their contiguity to the scene of war.

Blockade is Cleared.

San Francisco, Feb. 13.—The blockade on the Central Pacific railroad between Colfax and Truckee caused by the collapse of several hundred feet of snow sheds has been raised and trains are moving again.

DELIBERATE MURDER.

Killing of American at San Domingo So Characterized.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The state department has received a report by mail under date of San Domingo, February 2, from United States Minister Powell, of the killing by insurgents of J. G. Johnson, the second-class machinist of the American cruiser Yankee, on the morning of that date. The facts have been briefly given in press dispatches, but the details are furnished by the minister to establish the fact that the killing was unprovoked and deliberate. He says:

"This was no accident, but deliberately done, as during the morning they (the insurgents) had been firing on two signal men who were waiting for the launch. One of these men, T. Horning, had a bullet go through his hat; half an inch lower he would have been killed."

The minister acted with the greatest promptness in communicating with Commander Heiner, of the Yankee, and informing the foreign minister of the outrage. He added:

"I have addressed a note to the commander of the revolutionary forces, demanding ample satisfaction for this insult and for the death of this man, which I shall send by a strong guard to the commander."

VLADIVOSTOCK SQUADRON IS DECIMATED BY JAPS IN TSUGARO

Report of Further Disaster to Russians Reaches London, Where It Is Considered "Too Good to Be True."

Official Advice Received at St. Petersburg Says Japanese Fleet of Six Vessels Had Appeared in Tatung King Roadstead and That Engagement Followed--No Japanese Vessels Have Been Lost Off Port Arthur.

London, Feb. 13.—A report originating with a Japanese firm having correspondents in Tokio was circulated in London tonight to the effect that three Russian cruisers, presumably the Vladivostock squadron, had been torpedoed in the straits of Tsugaro yesterday.

The straits of Tsugaro are between the island of Hokkaido, the northern end of the Japanese islands, and Nippon, the central. Hokkaido is on the northern side of the straits.

The Japanese legation has heard nothing confirming this report, though it has come to it from several sources. Legation officials received the report with reserve, it being considered "too good to be true."

The Japanese have a strong naval base at Kotomari, at the northern end of Nippon, and on the south side of the straits, and it is considered possible, should the Vladivostock ships attempt to harass the coast about Hakodate, they will be met by torpedo boats from Kotomari.

Another Fight in Progress.

Chefoo, Feb. 14.—A steamer arriving here from Port Arthur reports that heavy firing was heard in the straits of Pechili at midnight.

PROBABLY ANOTHER FIGHT.

Booming of Cannon Heard Off Korean Port of Wiju.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 14.—10:20 a. m.—An official cablegram received here from Port Arthur, dated February 13, says that the lights of the enemy's ships were seen off Inkau on the evening of the 11th. It says further that advices reached Port Arthur February 12, that six Japanese battle ships had appeared in the roadstead of Tatung King (on the estuary of the Yalu river and opposite Korean port of Wiju), and that the booming of cannon had been heard.

NO CHANGE IN SITUATION.

Alexieff Makes Official Report to This Effect to Czar.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13.—It is officially announced tonight that Viceroy Alexieff today telegraphed the czar there had been no change in the far eastern situation within the last few days.

The Russo, which today published a story of the destruction of four Japanese cruisers and six transports by the Russian Vladivostock squadron, will be penalized by the authorities for publishing false news.

HAY'S DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH.

All of the Nations Have Joined in Our Late Request.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Secretary Hay has added another to his list of diplomatic triumphs, and the United States is once more enabled by its diplomacy to head the nations in the current effort to preserve the integrity of China.

Hay's note of February 10 to Russia and Japan, urging them to confine hostilities within as small an area as possible, and to respect the neutrality and administrative entity of China, will be accepted by Russia, as well as by Japan, and all nations will join the Washington government in inviting the combatants to agree to the proposition. M. Jusserand, the French ambassador, called upon Secretary Hay today

under instructions from the French government, to inform him that France had accepted the invitation of the United States to express to Russia and Japan the hope that the neutrality of China and her administrative entity will be respected.

Although Russia has not made formal answer, it is learned she has decided to accept. Russia's decision to acquiesce was reached after consultation with several European powers. It is understood M. Delcasse brought strong pressure to bear at St. Petersburg in support of the note, and that Ambassador Porter, at Paris, was most active in obtaining France's approval.

BRAVERY OF THE RUSSIANS.

Variag and Korietz Faced Certain Death Without Flinching.

Nagasaki, Feb. 14.—The survivors from the Variag and the Korietz, the Russian cruisers sunk by the Japanese at Chemulpo Tuesday, remain on board the British cruiser Talbot, the Italian cruiser Elba and the French cruiser Pascal.

The situation is becoming acute, as the Japanese have twice made demands on the commanders of the three foreign vessels that the Russians be surrendered as prisoners of war. The captain of the Talbot, being the senior naval officer, each time replied that he was awaiting instructions from his government.

A magnificent episode in the battle was the second sortie of the two Russian cruisers. With bands playing the national anthem, and the international fleet loudly cheering the bravery and gallantry of the Russians, the Variag and Korietz faced the Japanese fleet in what was certain death.

The Russian losses were one officer and 40 men killed and 464 wounded.

JAP VESSELS NOT SUNK.

Official Denial Made of the Reported Heavy Loss.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The Japanese minister tonight received a cablegram from his government officially denying the report that four Japanese torpedo boats had been sunk in the Port Arthur attack. The cablegram added that the Japanese ships had incurred only slight damage.

It is believed the Japanese fleet has gone to Sasebo for repairs.

The Japanese officials here show little concern over the reports that the Vladivostock cruiser squadron would harass the coast of northern Japan. It is said Kure and Hakodate are adequately fortified.

RUSSIA HAS WAR FEVER.

Populace Wild With Enthusiasm Since the First Clash.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13.—The war fever which has been aroused all over European Russia in a single week is remarkable. Such patriotic demonstrations as have been witnessed in St. Petersburg since hostilities began have been all the more astonishing because of the public indifference, almost up to the hour when Japan struck the first blow, but, like a flash, the whole empire seems to have been lashed into fury by the defeat, and is prepared to fight to the bitter end.

The demonstrations have been almost continuous for three days. Some of them are extraordinary in character. Today school boys numbering thousands marched bareheaded for hours up and down Nevsky Prospect, bearing

flags and shouting and singing patriotic airs.

BRITISH WILD WITH JOY.

People Jubilant Over Japan's Signal Success at the Start.

London, Feb. 13.—The end of the first week of the Russo-Japanese war brings intense satisfaction in Great Britain, and the extent of popular jubilation finds no adequate expression in the London press, which is careful not to offend Russia.

The total or partial disablement of nine Russian war vessels in the opening week of the struggle is generally considered by experts here as giving Japan control of the far eastern seas. Lord Salisbury's much criticized treaty with the rising power in the orient now stands among the most popular steps undertaken by British statesmen.

INCORRECT, OF COURSE.

Report of Land Engagement Turns Out to Have Been a Myth.

The "report" published yesterday that a land engagement had occurred between 100,000 Japanese and Russian troops, equally divided, turns out to have been purely mythical. The Astorian early this morning made inquiries at Associated Press headquarters and received the following reply: "So far as is known, there has been no land engagement between Japanese and Russian troops. No such advices have come from the far east. The Astorian has published accurate accounts of all engagements and reported engagements to date."

MOVEMENTS OF SQUADRON.

Location of Vladivostock Fleet Causing Much Speculation Now.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13.—The Associated Press is authorized to deny the report that Japanese troops had landed at Port Arthur, with the loss of two regiments. Nothing is known here officially regarding the movements of the Vladivostock squadron, but the reports that it had sunk Japanese transports on Won San and destroyed Hakodate are generally discredited, it being pointed out that it is impossible for the squadron to have been in two places almost simultaneously. A naval expert says that if the Hakodate story is true, Admiral Stackelberg (in command of the Vladivostock squadron) will be able to come south by the eastern coast of Japan and cause enormous havoc along the shore and to shipping, and ultimately effect a juncture with Admiral Viremus' squadron, on its way to the far east from Europe.

Viceroy Alexieff's silence about the Vladivostock squadron is explained as follows:

"For strategic reasons, the viceroy, as commander-in-chief, is empowered to dispose of the ships and men without consulting headquarters. The enumeration of the Russian ships engaged at Port Arthur was purposely admitted in the reports as it would have given a valuable clue to the enemy."

A private telegram has been received from a resident of Port Arthur, in which the sender claims he saw one Japanese warship sink. The fact that no mention was made of this in the viceroy's dispatches does not disprove the story, because the viceroy is careful not to announce anything outside of personally established facts. It is pointed out on high authority that the Japanese are not likely to admit such a loss, and it is recalled that during

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THE SENATOR IS BATTLING FOR LIFE

Previous Feeling of Despondency at the Sick Room Has Now Given Way to One of Hope.

Patient Has Responded to Treatment and May Yet Pull Through.

FIGHTING CHANCE FOR HIM

Put In a Good Day and Doctors Believe He May Yet Survive the Ravages of His Ailment.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Despite the critical condition of Senator Hanna, the feeling of despondency that last night prevailed the sick chamber gave way to one of restored hope. Along during the day the attending physicians, noting the manner in which the patient responded to treatment, gave it as their belief that he had "a fighting chance."

The tension under which the immediate members of the family have been since 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the sinking spell came on, was noticeably relieved tonight, and the senator's brother, his son Dan, and others of the household, spent some time in the lobby of the hotel. Indeed, his condition was such this afternoon that Mrs. Hanna was able to take a short drive.

The following bulletin was issued at 7 p. m.:

"Senator Hanna has had a good day. His temperature has been lower, not above 104, today. The pulse is regular, 120; respiration, 30.

"RICKLEY.

"OSLER.

"CARTER."

Dr. Osler stated at 8 p. m. that there had been no change, and that the senator had "a fighting chance."

Life for Mrs. Bowers.

San Francisco, Feb. 13.—Mrs. Martha E. Bowers was today sentenced to life imprisonment at San Quentin. Mrs. Bowers was convicted of the murder of her husband last August.

SOUGHT TO KILL HIMSELF.

Man on Trial for Murder Cuts His Throat in Court.

Butte, Feb. 13.—In Judge McClernan's court room today Albert Beckman, on trial for the second time for killing Helen Kelly, attempted to take his own life.

While Attorney Denny was making a plea for him, Beckman drew a knife and cut a gash in his throat. The wound was not deep enough to inflict fatal injuries.

Three Burned to Death.

Montreal, Feb. 13.—In a fire which started over the jewelry establishment of Bloomfield Bros. tonight two men and a woman were burned to death.

Our 20 per cent reduction sale on clothing is STILL ON



Hart Schaffner & Marx Hand Tailors

P. A. STOKES

Valentines J. N. Griffin

Groceries, Hardware, Ship Chandlery, Paints, Oil and Glass--Hardwood Lumber Boat Supplies etc. FISHER BROTHERS Cor. Bond and 12th Sts. Astoria, Oregon